Mission Statement for Subcommittee I
Electronic Health Record Status in Virginia
And Lessons Learned From Other States

To survey the status of Electronic Health Record (EHR) adoption in Virginia and other states and to identify strategies to facilitate wider EHR adoption and Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIO) development.

Other State's Experiences with Electronic Health Records

In order to begin to ascertain what electronic health information activities are underway in other states, the Association of State and Territory Health Officials (ASTHO) convened a conference call to discuss this issue. Nine states participated in the call with four of those states being recipients of an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) eHealth grants. The following themes emerged:

- The key drivers of eHealth initiatives are the desire to curb rising healthcare costs through reduction of medical errors and to reduce provider inefficiencies due to lack of data to support patient care.
- Substantial struggles with defining the role of the state in fostering the development of eHealth initiatives were reported. However, all states formed governance bodies composed of representatives from all stakeholders.
- States recognized the need for public health involvement. Those states that did not receive some sort of federal grant assistance are building on their existing public health reporting infrastructure, such as immunization registries, to create more robust health information systems.
- Financing and funding to support ongoing operations is a challenge. Federal grants and contracts serve as the major revenue source for upfront funding.

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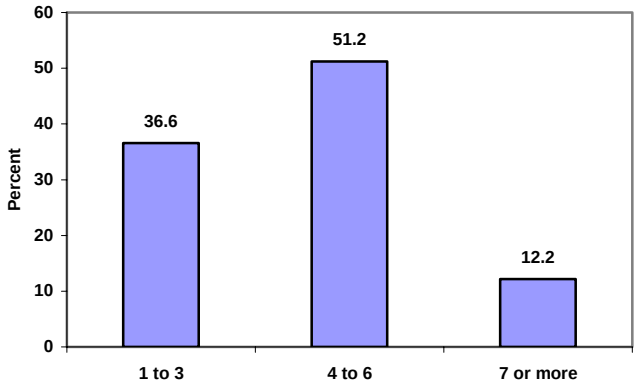

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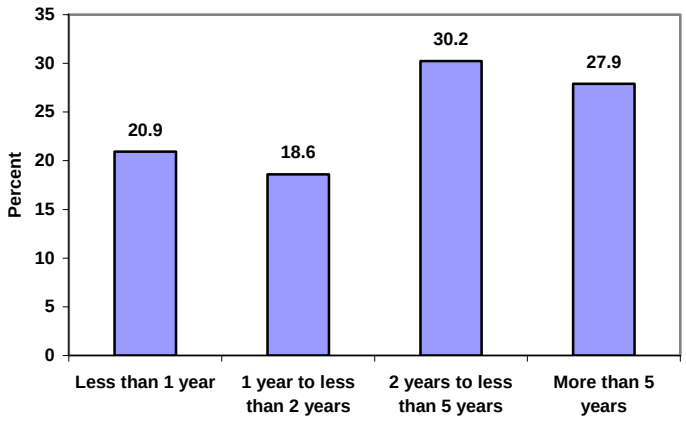
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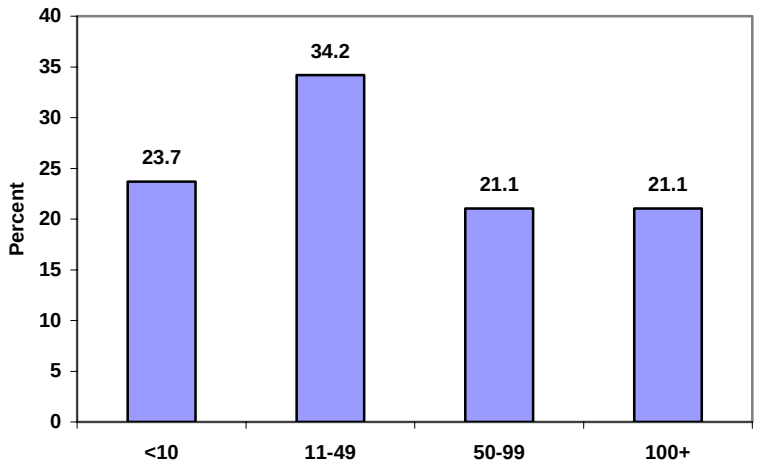

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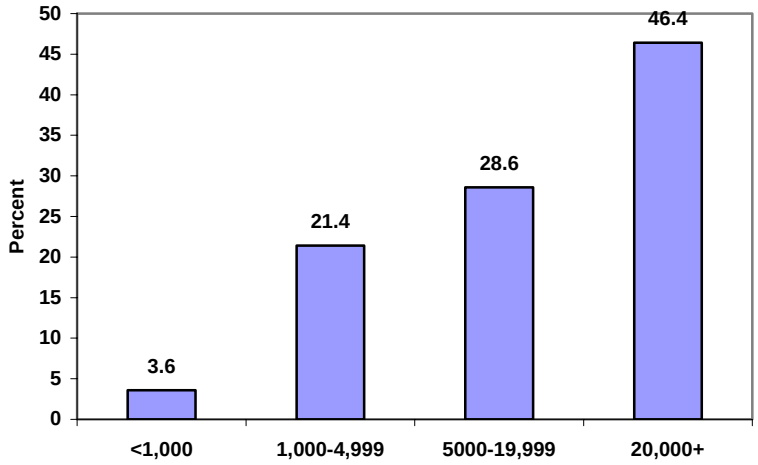

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Workforce Capacity for Electronic Health Record Adoption

Another possible barrier to wider adoption of EHR's is the availability of trained staff to manage the process.

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There are only two American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) accredited Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) Programs in Virginia:

Medical Education Campus, Northern Virginia Community College and Tidewater Community College.

There are presently no Registered Health Information Administration (RHIA) Programs in Virginia. DeVry University is exploring beginning a RHIT to RHIA program in 2006.

The Northern Virginia Health Care Workforce Alliance (NVHCWA) a coalition of private sector, business, government, community, health care and educational leaders formed with the mission to establish a long-term, business-driven, sustainable strategy to address the Northern Virginia health care worker shortage.

The Northern Virginia Health Care Workforce Alliance (NVHCWA) engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers to conduct a study of these issues. They analyzed the scope and impact of the healthcare workforce shortage on Northern Virginia. The results are found in the following report:

The Health Care Workforce Shortage: An Analysis of the Scope and Impact on Northern Virginia. (January 2005)

Executive Summary of: The Health Care Workforce Shortage: An Analysis of the Scope and Impact on Northern Virginia. (January 2005)

The estimated demand for health care workers in 2010 and 2020 is noted on the following chart.

Estimated Demand for Health Care Workers through 2020

Occupation Title	Current Employment	Current Shortage	Current Demand	Projected Health Care Workforce Needs by 2010	Projected Health Care Workforce Needs by 2020	Percent Shortage in Workforce by 2020
Registered nurses (including CRNAs, nurse practitioners, and nurse midwives)	9,082	1,038	10,120	12,056	15,432	41.1%
Nursing aides, orderlies, certified nurse assistants, attendants	3,245	323	3,568	4,251	5,441	40.4%
Medical records and health info technicians	1,337	172	1,509	1,872	2,547	47.5%
Dental assistants	1,110	20	1,130	1,402	1,906	41.8%
Medical and nurse managers	1,054	76	1,130	1,345	1,722	38.8%
Home health aides	1,080	40	1,120	1,334	1,708	36.8%
Dental hygienists	750	30	780	967	1,316	43.0%
Emergency medical technician/ paramedics	864	19	883	1,052	1,347	35.9%
Radiologic technologists and technicians	723	109	832	991	1,268	43.0%
Licensed practical nurses	1,111	390	1,501	1,669	1,919	42.1%
Physical therapists	573	119	692	825	1,056	45.7%
Physical therapist assistants	255	91	346	430	584	56.3%
Occupational therapists	350	67	417	496	635	44.9%
Respiratory therapists	233	39	272	324	415	43.9%
CT scanning technologists	237	24	261	312	399	40.6%
Medical and clinical lab technologists	397	30	427	474	545	27.2%
MRI technologists	172	22	194	232	296	41.9%
Speech language pathologists	122	46	168	200	256	52.3%
Pharmacy technicians	149	16	165	196	251	40.6%
Pharmacists	139	24	163	194	249	44.2%
Surgical technologists	134	21	155	184	236	43.2%
Medical and clinical lab technicians	228	32	260	289	332	31.3%
Phlebotomists	156	15	171	190	218	28.4%
Surgical technicians	33	-	33	40	51	35.3%
Grand Total	23,534	2,763	26,297	31,325	40,129	41.4%
Projected Health Care Workforce Vacancies from Current Employment Estimates				7,791	16,595	

This Pricewaterhouse Coopers study for Northern Virginia found there was an 11% shortage of medical records technicians, which is the equivalent of 172 open positions in the Northern Virginia service area alone. To eliminate the shortage and keep up with anticipated demand and population grown, Northern Virginia will need to add over 363 technicians by 2010 and another 675 by 2020. An average of seven medical records technicians graduated each year from Northern Virginia Community Colleges between 1999 and 2003. At this graduation rate, an addition 49 technicians will be added to the workforce by 2010**, 314 below market demand estimates just for Northern Virginia.**

Task Force I Recommendations:

- **Establish an ongoing statewide Health Information Technology Leadership Group.**
- **Conduct financial modeling to demonstrate the cost/benefit of EHR adoption for physician practices.**
- **Participate on the federal level to support the adoption of EHR standards.**
- **Review action steps of the NoVaHealth FORCE regarding the expansion of education in healthcare technology for its applicability to all of Virginia.**
- **In the state's role as a purchaser, work closely with the Department of Human Resources and Medicaid to establish incentives for EHR adoption.**
- **Appropriate state monies to facilitate increased RHIO development and other eHealth initiatives.**

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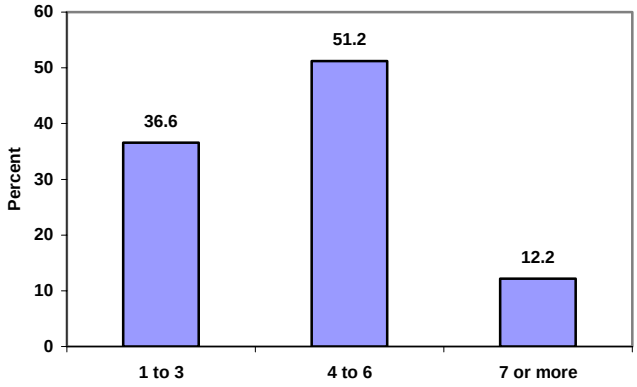

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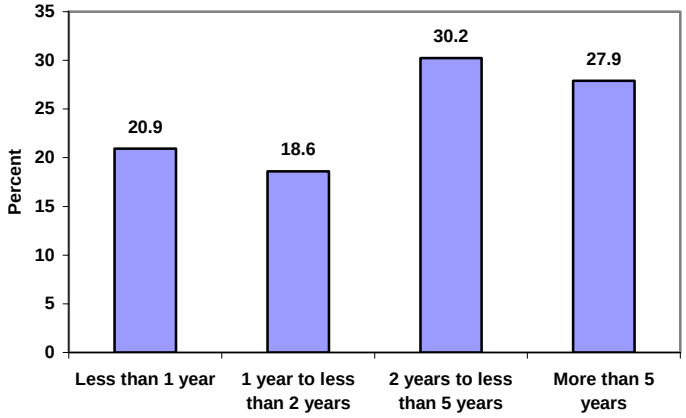
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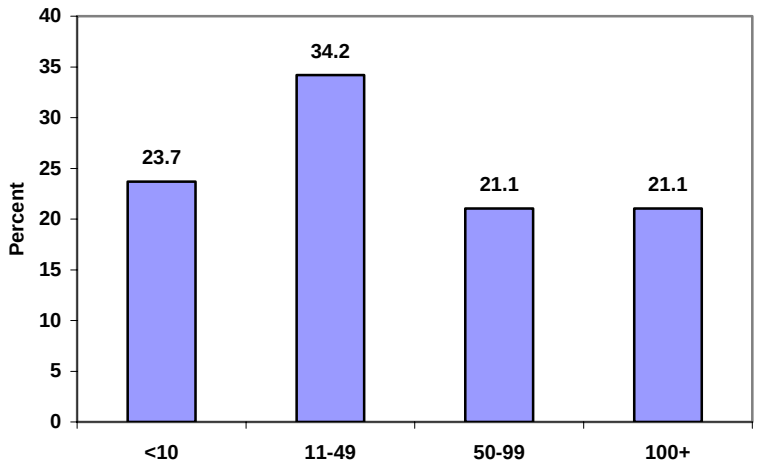

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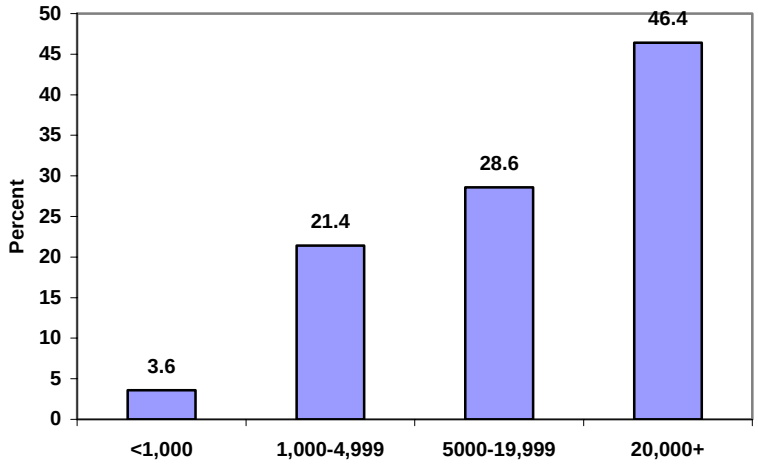

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Medical and health services managers	3,350	4,340	+ 30 %

There are only two American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) accredited Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) Programs in Virginia:

Medical Education Campus, Northern Virginia Community College and Tidewater Community College.

There are presently no Registered Health Information Administration (RHIA) Programs in Virginia. DeVry University is exploring beginning a RHIT to RHIA program in 2006.

The Northern Virginia Health Care Workforce Alliance (NVHCWA) a coalition of private sector, business, government, community, health care and educational leaders formed with the mission to establish a long-term, business-driven, sustainable strategy to address the Northern Virginia health care worker shortage.

The Northern Virginia Health Care Workforce Alliance (NVHCWA) engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers to conduct a study of these issues. They analyzed the scope and impact of the healthcare workforce shortage on Northern Virginia. The results are found in the following report:

The Health Care Workforce Shortage: An Analysis of the Scope and Impact on Northern Virginia. (January 2005)

Executive Summary of: The Health Care Workforce Shortage: An Analysis of the Scope and Impact on Northern Virginia. (January 2005)

The estimated demand for health care workers in 2010 and 2020 is noted on the following chart.

Estimated Demand for Health Care Workers through 2020

Occupation Title	Current Employment	Current Shortage	Current Demand	Projected Health Care Workforce Needs by 2010	Projected Health Care Workforce Needs by 2020	Percent Shortage in Workforce by 2020
Registered nurses (including CRNAs, nurse practitioners, and nurse midwives)	9,082	1,038	10,120	12,056	15,432	41.1%
Nursing aides, orderlies, certified nurse assistants, attendants	3,245	323	3,568	4,251	5,441	40.4%
Medical records and health info technicians	1,337	172	1,509	1,872	2,547	47.5%
Dental assistants	1,110	20	1,130	1,402	1,906	41.8%
Medical and nurse managers	1,054	76	1,130	1,345	1,722	38.8%
Home health aides	1,080	40	1,120	1,334	1,708	36.8%
Dental hygienists	750	30	780	967	1,316	43.0%
Emergency medical technician/ paramedics	864	19	883	1,052	1,347	35.9%
Radiologic technologists and technicians	723	109	832	991	1,268	43.0%
Licensed practical nurses	1,111	390	1,501	1,669	1,919	42.1%
Physical therapists	573	119	692	825	1,056	45.7%
Physical therapist assistants	255	91	346	430	584	56.3%
Occupational therapists	350	67	417	496	635	44.9%
Respiratory therapists	233	39	272	324	415	43.9%
CT scanning technologists	237	24	261	312	399	40.6%
Medical and clinical lab technologists	397	30	427	474	545	27.2%
MRI technologists	172	22	194	232	296	41.9%
Speech language pathologists	122	46	168	200	256	52.3%
Pharmacy technicians	149	16	165	196	251	40.6%
Pharmacists	139	24	163	194	249	44.2%
Surgical technologists	134	21	155	184	236	43.2%
Medical and clinical lab technicians	228	32	260	289	332	31.3%
Phlebotomists	156	15	171	190	218	28.4%
Surgical technicians	33	-	33	40	51	35.3%
Grand Total	23,534	2,763	26,297	31,325	40,129	41.4%
Projected Health Care Workforce Vacancies from Current Employment Estimates				7,791	16,595	

This Pricewaterhouse Coopers study for Northern Virginia found there was an 11% shortage of medical records technicians, which is the equivalent of 172 open positions in the Northern Virginia service area alone. To eliminate the shortage and keep up with anticipated demand and population grown, Northern Virginia will need to add over 363 technicians by 2010 and another 675 by 2020. An average of seven medical records technicians graduated each year from Northern Virginia Community Colleges between 1999 and 2003. At this graduation rate, an addition 49 technicians will be added to the workforce by 2010**, 314 below market demand estimates just for Northern Virginia.**

Task Force I Recommendations:

- **Establish an ongoing statewide Health Information Technology Leadership Group.**
- **Conduct financial modeling to demonstrate the cost/benefit of EHR adoption for physician practices.**
- **Participate on the federal level to support the adoption of EHR standards.**
- **Review action steps of the NoVaHealth FORCE regarding the expansion of education in healthcare technology for its applicability to all of Virginia.**
- **In the state's role as a purchaser, work closely with the Department of Human Resources and Medicaid to establish incentives for EHR adoption.**
- **Appropriate state monies to facilitate increased RHIO development and other eHealth initiatives.**